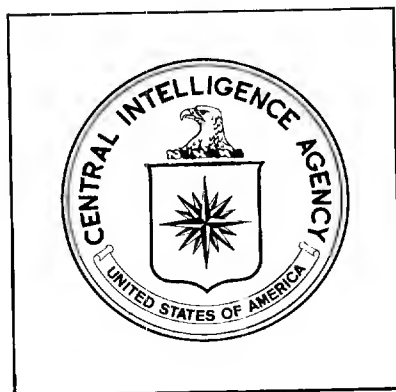


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WESTERN EUROPE – CANADA – INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Western Europe Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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Greek-Turk Military Incidents Claimed in Thrace,
Aegean Sea

The Greeks and Turks are again trading charges. Athens is protesting Turkish actions in Thrace and the Aegean while Ankara says the Greeks are illegally building up their military forces in the Aegean.

Greece claims the Turks last Wednesday fired on an unarmed Greek reconnaissance plane flying over Greek territory along the border in Thrace, but the Turks say the plane was on their side. The plane landed safely, despite minor damage.

Two other incidents apparently occurred Thursday when, according to Greek Defense Minister Averoff, Turkish aircraft made unauthorized photo flights over several Greek islands. Averoff told the US ambassador he wanted to warn the Turks that the next aircraft flown over a Greek island would be "shot down;" the government decided instead to make oral protests and to forward a memorandum summarizing the details of the unauthorized flights.

Averoff acknowledged the danger involved in firing on a Turkish aircraft, but said Athens would have no alternative if the Turks persisted. The Turks have apparently rejected the Greek protests, but they have informed the Greeks that a naval exercise in the Aegean has ended.

Last Friday, Turkey circulated an aide-memoire charging the Greeks with a military buildup on the Dodecanese Islands--forbidden under the 1947 peace treaty with Italy. Ankara

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has been aware of the Greek buildup there, which has been going on since a threatened clash over Aegean oil rights last June. Athens has recently added ten infantry battalions and some artillery to its forces on six islands. (Secret No Foreign Dissem/No Dissem Abroad/Background Use Only/Controlled Dissem)

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Italian Communists Defensive on Portugal

The Italian Communist Party closed its national congress on March 23 by restating its demands for a direct voice in the government and implying that such a development would not affect Italy's ties with the West. Public attention was diverted from the congress, however, by a growing controversy over the implications for Italy of recent events in Portugal.

In his closing remarks, communist leader Berlinguer maintained that only a coalition including the communists would have the "force and authority" to deal with Italy's problems. He asserted, moreover, that the communists, if included in the government, would not "bring up" the subject of Italian withdrawal from NATO.

The meetings ended with unanimous endorsement of the Berlinguer line, although some differences surfaced in debate over the timing and implementation of his strategy. One influential leader urged the party to push harder for a government role, even though Berlinguer claims to be in "no hurry." Another party official put the main emphasis on forcing the Christian Democrats to give up many of their perquisites--particularly their hold on the public sector of the economy--in exchange for communist support.

The communists' positions on domestic issues were largely obscured, however, by the controversy that developed over the party's failure to condemn the events in Portugal that led to the banning of the Portuguese Christian Democratic Party. The timing of the Lisbon

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events could not have been worse for the Italian communists. The communists had hoped that the conciliatory tone of their congress would undercut Christian Democratic arguments against communist participation in the government. Instead, the Christian Democrats seized on the Portuguese Communist Party's role in Lisbon to bolster their argument against any concessions to the Italian communists.

The communists now are on the defensive, and in the closing sessions of the congress some speakers seemed to be cautiously favoring a more critical line toward the Portuguese communists. Berlinguer in his final remarks showed his concern over the situation in Lisbon and he may well decide to criticize the Portuguese government's action if the Christian Democrats are successful in making the issue a test of the Italian communists' claim to be an independent national party.
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Scottish Labor Party Conference Takes
Moderate Stand

The Scottish Labor Party conference last weekend took a more moderate stand than expected on devolution and the EC membership question.

The leaders of the Scottish Labor party traditionally have been unsympathetic toward devolution--the notion that the British parliament should grant certain powers and responsibilities to regional assemblies. Although some delegates tried to get approval for substantial devolution, most of the conference delegates, including a large minority of trade union bloc votes, surprisingly backed only limited devolution.

Devolution, however, is the principal rallying cry of the increasingly popular Scottish Nationalists and unless the Scottish Labor Party and the British Labor government recognize the need to embrace this concept, the Scottish Nationalists probably will pick up additional support in the next general election. Secretary of State for Scotland Ross subsequent to the vote said that the British government would take all proposals made at the conference into account when it formulates devolution legislation. Last month, during a parliamentary debate on the subject, the Labor government appeared unprepared and unwilling to discuss the question.

The conference approved a resolution that stated "outright opposition to continued membership in the EC" but the margin was far less than the two to one earlier expected. In addition,

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more than 12 percent of the delegates did not vote, suggesting that many people are still undecided about the EC issue. Prime Minister Wilson's appearance at the conference and his explanation of the renegotiations and the government plans for the referendum on continuing membership was at least partially responsible for the less negative vote.

The delegates, however, overwhelmingly endorsed a resolution demanding that the government count and announce the results of the EC referendum on a regional basis. Prime Minister Wilson has suggested that the count be made on a national basis in an effort to hide the anticipated favorable response to continued membership in England and the negative response in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.
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Turkey Warns Against Terrorist Activity
on Cyprus

A Turkish Foreign Ministry official has advised the US embassy that Ankara will respond "very forcefully" if Greek Cypriots resort to terrorist activity.

The official claims that Turkey has evidence that President Makarios is financing and arming a new terrorist organization which plans action against Turks on Cyprus and elsewhere. The Turks may be referring to the activities of Vassos Lyssarides, a pro-Makarios politician, whose leftist party has its own para-military force and is making gains among Greek Cypriot refugees.

The possibility of officially sanctioned Greek Cypriot terrorist activity at some future time cannot be excluded, but Makarios will first want to exhaust all diplomatic options before adopting such a desperate and dangerous course. As Greek Cypriot frustrations grow, however, radical splinter groups and individual Greek Cypriots may take actions on their own that could provoke a strong Turkish response.

The foreign ministry official also expressed his personal opinion that the initiation of any Greek Cypriot terrorist activity would make it difficult for Ankara to participate in negotiations over Cyprus. (Secret)

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French Foreign Minister's Meetings with
Greek Leaders

In a visit to Athens late last month, French Foreign Minister Sauvagnargues had wide-ranging exchanges with Greek Prime Minister Karamanlis and Foreign Minister Bitsios, the substance of which has only recently become available [REDACTED]

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Sauvagnargues reportedly confirmed Paris' willingness to advise Greece on technical aspects of withdrawal from the military structure of NATO. The French foreign minister apparently did not actively encourage the Greeks to withdraw nor did he elaborate on the type of assistance France is prepared to offer other than to specify that it would be discreet.

Karamanlis requested French support for Greece's bid to achieve full membership in the EC. Sauvagnargues replied that the matter would best be postponed until the second half of the year, citing the current EC preoccupation with the question of UK renegotiation terms. Last fall, in its capacity as EC president, France called for a discussion of the EC relationship with the new regime in Athens and promised to argue Greece's case for renewing those provisions of its association with the Community--especially financial aid--that were suspended in 1967.

Sauvagnargues also advised the Greek leaders that the EC policy on Cyprus is restricted to assisting in the creation of a framework for settlement of the issue. The EC could not take sides and the French foreign minister expressed doubt that the Community could exert any significant influence anyway. Sauvagnargues did assure

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Karamanlis, however, that Europe as a whole would oppose any new military initiative by Turkey against either Greece or Cyprus. He also pointed out that the government of France supports a resumption of the intercommunal talks and opposes USSR involvement in the procedure for a Cyprus settlement.

With a view toward strengthening bilateral relations, Sauvagnargues and Greek Foreign Minister Bitsios agreed that it would be useful for the directors general of their respective ministries to meet twice a year. Agreement was also reached on an increase in cultural exchanges. (Secret No Foreign Dissem/No Dissem Abroad/Background Use Only/Controlled Dissem)

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